

# the Talon

Avila University

www.avila.edu Vol. XI Issue 3

See inside for  
'Edutaining' Classes



November 21, 2002

## Students ask, 'Where's the stadium?'

Shannon Degitz

News Editor

Students have been told that a football/soccer stadium is in the plan for Avila. Rumors have circulated that Avila's plan to build a stadium is false and that it has been discarded. Students have wondered where the stadium is, and if it will ever be built.

"Administrators and coaches said that by my third year they would have a football stadium for us to play on that it would be on campus. It is not the coaches fault, though. They are pushing for it as much as we are," sophomore running back Kevin Furderer said. "No means have been done to take any steps towards a football stadium. All they have done is provide us with a practice field."

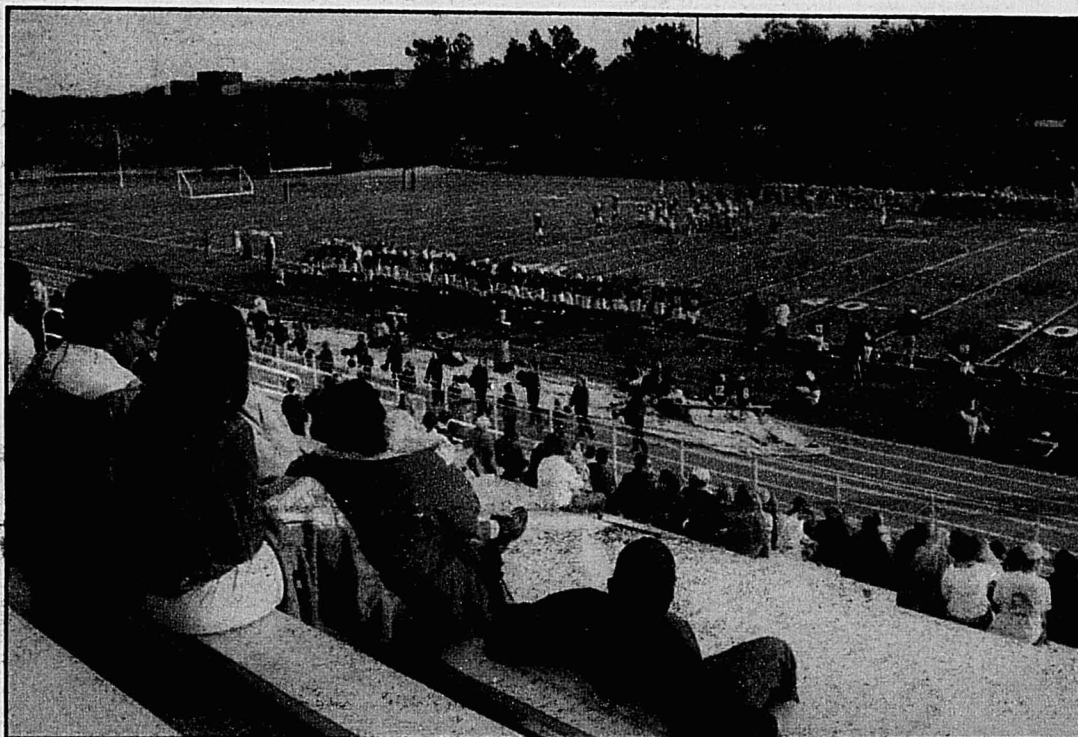
"When I toured Avila, I was told that a football stadium should be started by the end of the summer, and that was in 2000," sophomore middle line-backer William Smith said.

"I was told a stadium would be done by my senior year and it keeps getting pushed back," senior offensive lineman Lucas Wiester said.

Time, money and a little more time is what it takes to produce projects such as a football/soccer stadium. The capital campaign project, which raises money for projects around campus, is under way and is in the planning phase.

"We have two phases to the strategic plan. Out of phase one came a number of recommendations. Some of those were the new residence halls,

completing the renovation of O'Rielly Hall, expanding the field house, moving the bookstore, and the football field was part of the plan," Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Sr. Marie Joan Harris said.



Avila fans watch their home team play at Rockhurst High School.

E. Barnes

"These then go to the executive committee and as we look at those recommendations, we try to put them into consideration for the capital campaign. From a strategic planning point of view, those recommendations have been forwarded and are now under consideration for the capital campaign. Phase two is now under way to decide what we need to do to move the institution forward for the next five years."

"The football field is a part of the

capital campaign. We have many capital projects, though, that we are working on completing. We do not do it project by project," Vice President for Advancement Kim Hinrichs said. Building a football/soccer stadium

is not an overnight process. Avila has retained the help of capital campaign consultants to help launch the campaign.

"The consultants help us make a good case statement that we can present to our donors," Hinrichs said. "The consultants basically help us state all the reasons why it will benefit Avila."

According to Vice President and Dean for Student Affairs Joseph Deighton, "We set a vision and we

work towards that vision. We try and decide the path of the school in the future and the best ways to advance as an institution. The process involves many steps and we have to keep evaluating where we are at. Nobody is in the position to make promises, though."

A specific time period for the start and completion of the stadium has not been set, and largely depends on the amount of money that is raised.

"The sooner the better, but I don't think there is a deadline for us, as long as we have a facility approved by the NAIA and the Heart [of America Conference], they will not oppose us if we play off site, and certainly Rockhurst is one of the best facilities in the conference right now," Deighton said.

Building a football/soccer stadium requires intensive research and planning. Time has to be taken to research potential donors, as well as the benefit of the stadium to Avila.

By having a well organized and planned capital project, we can have the most effective impact on the community. We do have a timeline but it also depends on how much money we receive," Hinrichs said.

"The original football players will never see a stadium, which is a shame because we were told that they were working on one for us," Furderer said.

Having a football stadium on cam-

See Stadium, p. 2

## Senate offers book buying website

Betsy Rechten

Staff Writer

Student Senate is making it easier for students to buy and sell their textbooks to other students on campus.

"We are creating a way for students to buy and sell their books through postings that students can go to through the Avila website," senior Avery Abernathy said.

The posting will be a place that everyone on campus can visit to see listings of the different books being

sold by students, plus how to contact them, all in one place.

"Having something like this is a great idea. I always have trouble selling my books because I don't know who wants them. This would make it much easier," junior Catherine Bohnert said.

Many students try to sell their books to other students, because it is usually more of an advantage than selling them back to the bookstore.

"I usually try to sell my books to people that will be taking the same class after me, because it is cheaper for them to buy it from me, rather than the bookstore, and I get more money back as well," junior Melissa Stovall said.

The Student Senate textbook posting will soon be ready for students to use. They are working out the minor details before the whole campus can have access to the site.

"We have to find a way to control

what is being written on the postings, so there is nothing inappropriate being submitted on to the Avila website," junior Mary Ingalls said.

Once the website posting is up and running, students will be able to access this new feature by going to the Avila website at www.avila.edu. They can access the book listing through the Student Senate page.



## News Briefs

The Scop magazine offers students the opportunity to publish their writing. Poetry, prose, essay, short story, one act plays and other written pieces of work are accepted. The first deadline is Dec. 13 and the final deadline is Feb. 21. For more information contact Stanley Banks at ext. 3679.

The grand opening of the Eagles Nest was Oct. 31. It is now open for students to stop by and enjoy. Students can hang out with friends, watch TV, play games and much more.

*The Speed of Darkness* by Steve Tesich, directed by Robert Foulk, opens on Nov. 21 and shows through Nov. 24 in Goppert Theatre. The performance begins at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Sunday.

Avila University's first book signing event will feature Sherry Lamb Schirmer's book titled, *A City Divided: The Racial Landscape of Kansas City 1900-1960*. She will be signing copies of her book on Friday, Dec. 6, at 7 p.m. in the Hooley-Bundscho Library.

### AVILA UNIVERSITY WEEK OF GIVING EVENTS ENDING NOV. 22

#### Toy Drive

The Montessori School and Child Care Center staff, children and families are sponsoring a gift drive for the Seton Center. Collection boxes will be available outside room 719 in Hodes.

#### Penny War

Bring your spare change to the Marian Center between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. and help support Avila's student organization.

#### Food Drive

Bring non-perishable food to boxes located in the Marian Center (by the Student Life Office), Foyle Hall (Chapel Foyer) and Blasco Hall (by reception desk). All food will be donated to Harvesters.

#### Clothing Drive

First Year Seminar Section 13 is collecting clothing for the Swope Parkway Health Service Homeless Outreach Program. The collection boxes will be neon colored and placed throughout campus.

## *The Speed Of Darkness* illuminates Goppert

Jared Bryant  
Staff Writer

Reuniting with an old friend is often a time of reminiscing. Not so in the case for Joe and Lou, who share a past of hate and secrets that could destroy everything Joe has worked to achieve.

*The Speed of Darkness*, Avila's second play of the season, will open at Goppert Theatre on Nov. 21 at 8 p.m. This story is a depiction of two Vietnam veterans and their intertwining war experiences. Joe, a successful businessman and upstanding citizen, is a true family man. Then he gets an unexpected visit from an old war buddy, the only person that knows of what Joe is truly capable. Lou has been, "Missing in America" for the last 18 years, dwelling upon his past. He wanders from place to place and finally reunites with Joe, to find comfort in an old friend.

"A man can be nominated for 'Man of the Year' and could have a completely different home life. The public perceives him one way, but in reality, he is different," director Robert Foulk.

"This is a dark story about the breakdown and reconstruction of a true family," actor Stephen Mitsch said.

This play was chosen simply because "it has a funny but edgy quality that appealed to me," Foulk said. "It appeals to a much broader audience, which allows students to

relate to the contents of the presented family issues. It is 'hip' to present day society," Foulk said.

"It's amazing, so intense, and it is a different perspective of the war," stage manager Kirsten Engebretson said.

"Although we only have roughly half of the time to get ready, everything is running smoothly and pretty much ahead of schedule," Foulk said.

He attributes the smoothness to the experience and dedication of his cast and crew. All five of the cast members have been in two or more Avila productions, with many of them having four or more plays under their belts.

Foulk has been directing plays at Avila for nine years; *The Speed of Darkness* is his 11th. He has also been active in directing plays throughout the community. He has worked at the Unicorn Theatre, American Heartland Theatre, the Shakespeare Festival, the Theatre for Young America and many other theaters across town. Foulk is currently in his third year of teaching at Kansas City Kansas Community College where he teaches theater.

Auditions are open to everyone, including non-students. The auditions for the next play, *Dracula*, will take place in Goppert Theatre on Dec. 2.

For ticket and audition information call (816) 501-3699.

## Stadium

Continued from p. 1

pus would generate more campus life and general enthusiasm around campus.

"I think it could be a center for activity, much like a student activities center, for our campus. It would also be nice to bring people on to our campus as opposed to down the street. If there was a stadium then we could bring visitors and guests to our campus and show it off. It would generate excitement on our own campus," Deighton said.

"Students want to be able to come to their own stadium rather than drive to some stadium that we borrow," Wiester said. "Being able to have what the football team calls their 'backyard' to play in would generate more competition. It is a psychological advantage over the other team. It would be like, 'this is our turf, our field, and you are not going to beat us on our home-field.'" Wiester said.

Despite the fact that students feel a stadium is out of the picture, some still feel that Avila is working hard for them.

"I know that Avila works hard for the students. I don't feel any promises have been broken and it [not having a stadium] is not really a disappoint-

ment. I would liked to have played on one but Avila doesn't have a million dollar budget. You either deal with it or you don't," Wiester said.

A football/soccer stadium would eliminate the bad conditions that the football team and other teams have to endure when practicing.

"The entire team has to battle good and bad weather conditions. A stadium would definitely be an awesome recruiting icon, as well as bring in more fans," Wiester said.

"A stadium would be nice but that is not what it is about. Football is football no matter where you play it. In addition, we are already playing on one of the better fields [Rockhurst] in the conference. Even though it is not our own, it is awesome. The field is always in perfect condition," freshman defensive end Andrew Moore said.

"Quality education is worth more to me than complaining about what is and isn't. I know that a stadium is in the works and the more time it takes to plan the better it will be. I have fun playing football and enjoy the atmosphere. Yes, it would be nice to play in a stadium but once again, I know it will be here someday for me to visit," Wiester said.

## Faster is better when it comes to computers

Jeffrey Walker  
Staff Writer

Slow computers are a problem for students and staff. When a person tries to log on to the computer, it may take several minutes to access the Internet, causing extreme delays in the system.

"It is ridiculous because it's the slowest thing in the world," sophomore Jessie Pulido said.

The computer speed becomes a problem when instructors want to use the Internet during one of their classes. Downloading has caused big problems to the campus computer service. The computers have become slow due to students downloading websites on the campus system, which slows down the T1 computer pipeline.

"The pipe is just full," Sue King, assistant vice president of academic affairs, said. "No matter how wonderful your highway system is, it's going to slow down."

"Avila is working on a plan to make things better," Charlie Schmidt, director of computer services, said.

The school is discussing ways to improve the computer pipeline speed. One suggestion was to use an IMA line. According to Schmidt, the line is easier for faculty to use when their classes are in session and it gives an access speed for each user. The school is attempting to fix the problem this summer to improve the compute system and the speed.

"Over 200 students log on everyday," Schmidt said.

The downloading is only done by a small percentage of students and the time period that the students use the computers is from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Schmidt believes that if every one of these students would stop, the computer pipeline would be faster.

Downloading is allowed at Avila and there are no restrictions or censor policies.

"Students should be able to download things, as long as it is not provocative," Pulido said.

"My firm belief is [that] you're an adult," King said. She feels that students are mature enough to govern what to download on a computer.



## Eagles overcome growing pains

Katie McRoberts  
Staff Writer

Like prisoners of war on a silent death march, they filed one by one off the buses and into the locker room. Heads bowed in shocking defeat. No one spoke.

Avila's football team lost to Evangel University that day. In a season of ups and downs, this might have been the lowest point. Leading 31-7 midway through the third quarter, the young Avila defense gave up 37 points in the second half.

"We're a young team and Evangel's very good. They capitalized on our turnovers," sophomore running back Kevin Furderer said.

Football at Avila began as a club sport in fall of 2000. They entered the Heart of America Conference and became a member of the NAIA last season.

"Last year we were supposed to be 0-10 and ended up winning two games. We're a really young team, but we've really stepped up this year and surprised everyone," Furderer said.

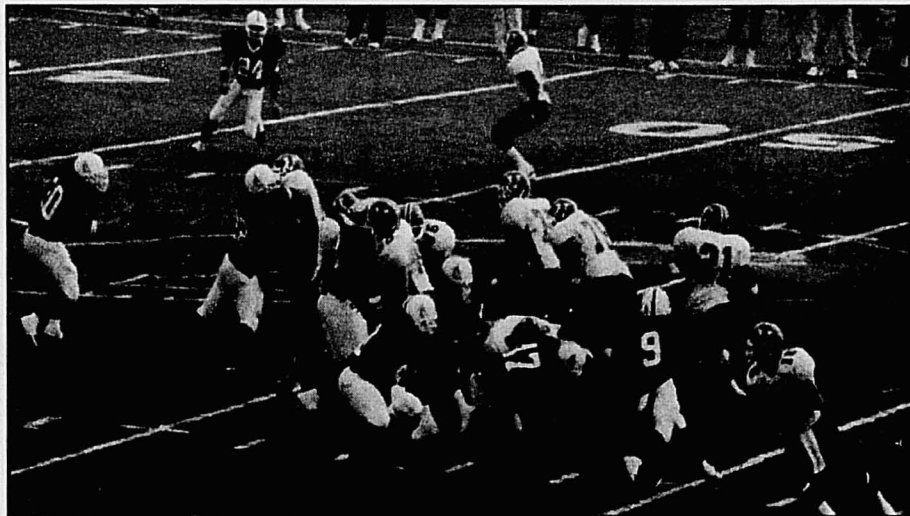
After a victory in their first game of

the season against William Jewell, the season turned. Losing three consecutive games to Baker, Benedictine and Central Methodist, the season looked grim. Avila rebounded the following week and beat Culver Stockton by two points when place-kicker Massimo Scaccia kicked a 26-yard field goal with 18 seconds remaining in the game. Their homecoming game ended with a 28-23 win over Lindenwood.

After the loss to Evangel they squeaked by Graceland 38-35, but came up short against Missouri Valley, losing 24-19.

"We should be 8-1. Every game, except Baker, we've been up or even at half time. We've beaten some of the best teams in the conference when no one thought we'd win more than two games. We're 4-5 right now with a good chance to finish strong," Scaccia said, before Saturday's final game.

Head Coach Tim Johnson also had some insight into the season's development.



E. Barnes

Sophomore Leonard Casey (#9) runs down Missouri Valley's #21 to make the tackle.

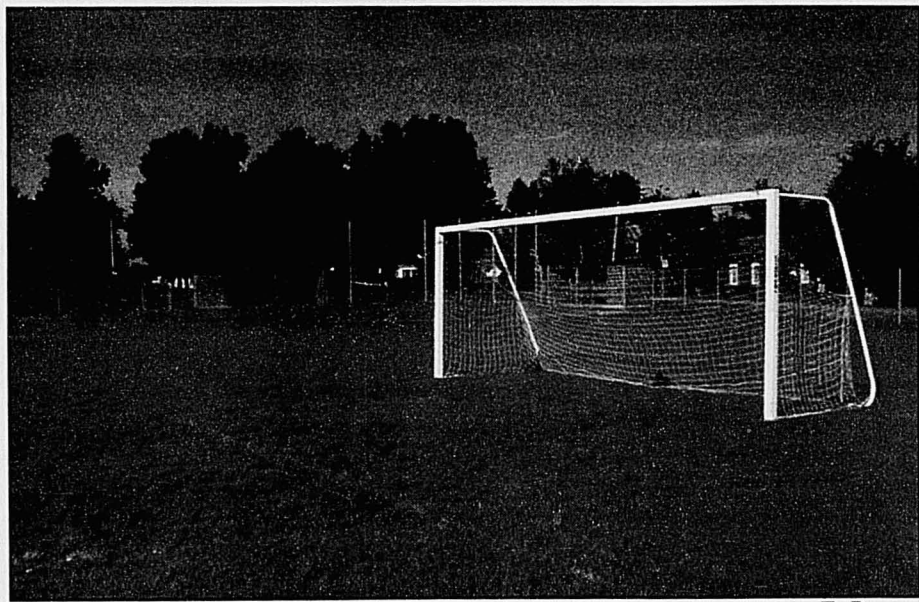
"I'm very happy with the progress the team has made. We've been very competitive in the conference and made great strides even though we're a young team. Our losses to Evangel and Central Methodist were heartbreakers, but hard work and dedication will lead to good things," Johnson said.

Sophomore quarterback Brandon Allen agreed that offensively and overall as a team, they have become significantly better.

"We can beat anybody in this conference if we play together and don't beat ourselves. In the future an end result would be a conference championship but our biggest accomplishment right now [would be] to beat Mid-America," Allen said, of the season finale.

The team's hope of finishing .500 was spoiled by the 49-13 defeat by Mid-America Nazarene University on Nov. 16.

## Field sharing causes tension between teams



E. Barnes

Soccer goals must be moved by baseball players before their practices.

Theophilus Clark  
Staff Writer

This fall, the Avila baseball team and the women's soccer team shared the field with each other during their practices. Players from both teams had problems with the conflicting practice schedules. The problem arose because the soccer field is the outfield of the baseball field.

Several women's soccer players thought the baseball team was at fault.

"I don't see why they were practicing. They weren't even in season," senior mid-fielder Rebecca Reed said.

The baseball team started practice early because off-season practice begins in the fall for NAIA teams. However, the baseball team could not fully begin its practice until soccer practice was over. The baseball players had to move the soccer goals before they could begin.

"The soccer team messes up the outfield from their slides on the field and the spikes from their cleats," junior pitcher Brett Goranflo said. "We tried to be considerate to their practices."

On the other hand, several players from the women's soccer team were furi-



E. Barnes

The soccer field serves as the baseball and softball outfield.

ous. They have made numerous complaints to the baseball players and coaches. During batting practice, balls carried over to the soccer field. Junior forward Laura Wilkerson was hit by a baseball, but was not injured.

"It's like we are playing two sports at once, dodge ball and soccer," freshman defender Amy Granillo said, speaking about a baseball that was found on the soccer field prior to a soccer game. When baseballs landed on the soccer field, some of the soccer players kept them.

"That is illogical and ridiculous," senior defender Sara Beckley said. "Someone could have been seriously injured."

Strides are being made to correct the field-sharing situation. The baseball players put up a fence, attempting to block some of the stray balls. In return, the soccer players are attempting to be more understanding.

"Coping with sharing the field is a learning process," Head Women's Soccer Coach Paul McNally said. "The issues regarding this problem will be addressed at the end of the season."



## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Sara Maley  
Editor-in-Chief

## Lucas Wiester

Twenty-two-year-old Lucas Wiester began playing football at age 5. Coming from a military family, he moved from city to city across the United States but always managed to make friends through his involvement in football. He began his athletic career on the offensive line but later moved into defensive positions in high school.

After graduating from George Washington High School in Denver, Colo., Wiester continued playing at New Mexico Highlands University in Las Vegas, N.M., but stayed for only two seasons.

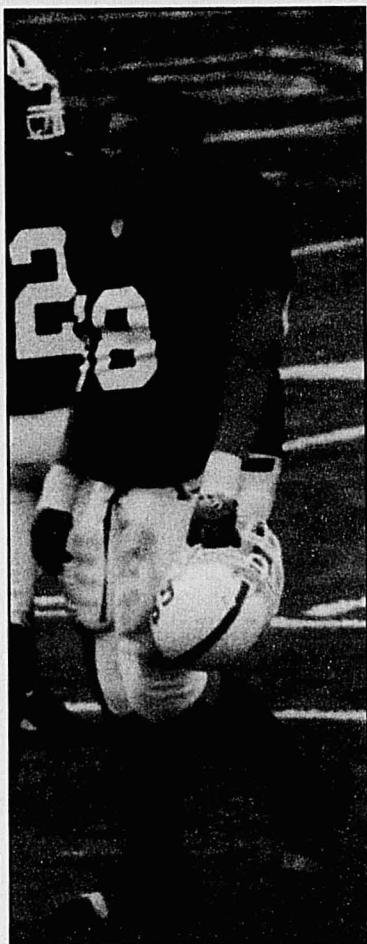
It was family more than football that brought Wiester to Avila.

"I hurt my leg in a game. I more or less destroyed my ankle and the coaches weren't taking care of me," Wiester said. "My parents had just moved to Kansas City and heard that Avila was starting a new program so I decided to come here."

Wiesters will graduate in May 2004 with a degree in history and plans to return to Colorado to teach in the Denver public school system.

"Denver is home to me. I have to have the mountains around me," Wiester said.

Aside from participating in football, Wiester is involved in many other activities on campus and acts as a resident assistant for Carondelet Hall. One goal Wiester wishes to complete before he graduates from college is to star in at least one Avila theater production. Theater has been a part of his life since high school, as he helped



E. Barnes

behind the scenes with set design and construction, though he has never actually had a role.

"I want to be the first Avila football player to be in a play. Whether it's some random guy who pushes a broom across the stage or the lead, I want to be in a production," Wiester said. "I don't want to leave college saying that I only played football. Plus, I respect any group on campus for whatever art or craft they do. They respect us athletes for being physically talented and I respect them for being artistically and theatrically talented."

Sara Maley  
Editor-in-Chief

## Stephanie Bass

Stephanie Bass knew from an early age that she wanted to play college volleyball, but knew even earlier that she wanted to be a teacher. Playing right-side hitter, Bass has been involved in the sport since she was in eighth grade and decided to play at Avila for a number of reasons.

"I played basketball and softball, and ran track in high school, too. Volleyball was the only sport I liked practicing. That's why I wanted to play in college," Bass said. "It was volleyball that brought me here. I heard that Avila's education department was good and it is close to my family."

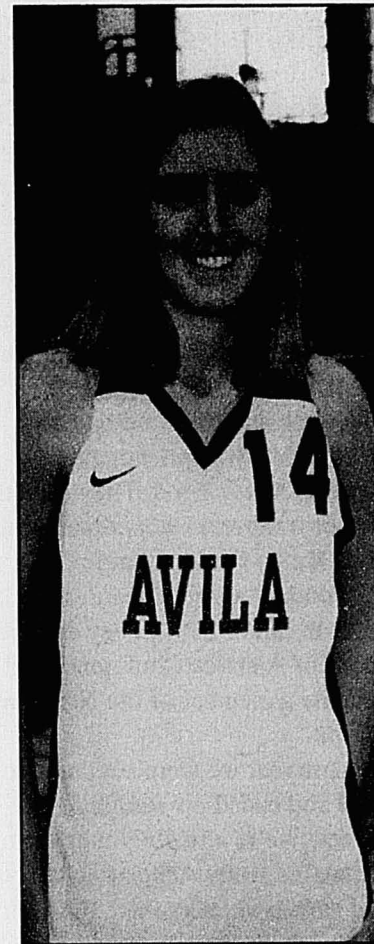
The 22-year-old Lee's Summit, Mo. native hopes to teach grades four through six after she graduates in May 2003.

"I want to teach because I like kids and teaching is busy and different every day. I'm very creative and I'll get to do fun things with the kids I'll teach. Plus, students that age are easier to talk to. You don't have to hold their hands to do everything," Bass said.

Bass spent her senior volleyball season acting as co-captain for the team. Though the record may be deceiving, she feels that this was the most successful season the team has had since she joined in 1999.

"Everyone got along. The girls were great and the team is getting much better. We are bulding into a quality program. It is a good team to be on for someone who really likes to play the sport," Bass said.

Additionally, the new coaching staff



E. Barnes

added a new perspective on the game for Bass.

"Coach Jeff (Morgan) and Coach Brett (Talcott) are both very young so it's easy to relate to them. Plus, they really know what they are doing. Not only were they our coaches, they were our friends," Bass said.

Other team members, including freshman middle hitter Sarah Davis, looked to Bass as a role model and leader.

"She really took me under her wing as a freshman. She is someone to look up to on the team because she sets a good example and has a great work ethic," Davis said.

The Senate Forum is a communication link between the student body and your student government.

The Student Senate is currently working on:

- Implementing an Online Used Textbook Exchange
- Additional lighting for the parking lot south of Dallas and Ridgway Hall
- Evaluation of the Campus Internet

Faster internet access is on it's way! Computer services has purchased 3 times the initial campus bandwidth which should be in place before the end of the semester. Now you can do your part to help the internet crisis by shutting down your computer when it is not in use. Even though file sharing programs such as Kazaa and Morpheus may be closed they can still be accessed by other people which severely affects our local internet.

As the end of the semester nears we would like to encourage students to recycle all of those unwanted rough drafts rather than throw them away. Look for purple boxes situated around campus designated for recycling paper. Recycling paper sustains our environment and provides funds for campus programming.



Have a suggestion or a question? Use our suggestion box located in the Hookey-Bundschu Library!


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## Volleyball season ends with a win



E. Barnes  
Freshman Whitney Abramson serves it up.

Theophilus Clark  
Staff Writer

It was the last game of the season, and it was senior night. The last game the senior volleyball players ever played as Avila Eagles. Although the team had a record of three wins and 18 losses, the gym was filled with faithful fans cheering for their team.

The match was against Central Methodist College. After losing a set, the Eagles were able to pull together three wins and win their last match of the season three games to one.

"It was nice to see the seniors go out with a bang," freshman middle hitter Sarah Davis said.

The majority of the games ended

with a loss, and there was a stretch during the season where the team lost three consecutive games. They were a young team with a new coach but according to several players, the season became a learning experience.

"The middle of the season was tough because we had not won any games in a while. It was tough because we were not playing together as at team," sophomore outside hitter Jamie Richardson said.

The volleyball team is looking to turn around next season and recruiting has already begun. Their off-season training will begin in a few weeks, consisting of weight lifting, plyomet-

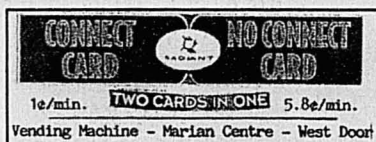
ric training and running. This training takes place four times per week.

"The team improved greatly throughout the season. Basing the season on wins and losses, the season would not seem like a success. The progression of the team from the first game of the season to the last game of the season shows the team's success," Head Coach Brett Talcott said.

According to the volleyball players, they are happy that Talcott decided to return next season. They feel with him as head coach, they can build a good program.

### Fraternities \* Sororities Clubs \* Student Groups

Earn \$1,000-\$2,000 this semester with a proven CampusFundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. **Our programs make fundraising easy with no risks.** Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get with the program! It works. Contact CampusFundraiser at (888) 923-3238, or visit [www.campusfundraiser.com](http://www.campusfundraiser.com)



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# 'Edutainment' - dedicated

Jeremiah Miles

Sports Editor

**H**ello. I am calling to remind you about your class that meets in two weeks. The required readings and assignments can be found in the library."

This is a familiar message heard by those students that have already taken a weekend intensive course. Yes, there are books to read and there is homework to do... before the class begins. However, this has not turned students away in prior semesters.

## What it means...

Depending on the length, weekend intensives can grant a student one, two or three credit hours by attending

class only on Friday nights and Saturdays. One credit hour is available for each weekend that the course runs. This means that if a class meets for three weekends, expect it to be worth three credits.

Classes generally begin at 6 p.m. on Friday, concluding at 10 p.m., and carry over into the following Saturday. The Saturday start time is, bright and early, at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 5 p.m., but it is not uncommon for students to

sway the teacher into letting class start a little later.

## Why to take them...

Many departments offer classes in its field. Many are required classes, while others are electives. Keep in mind convenience. Weekend inten-

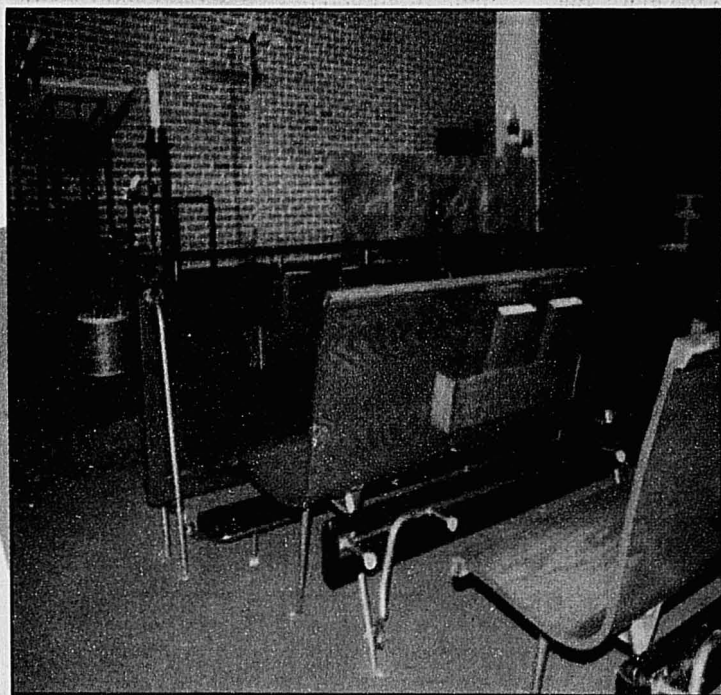
sives are a good way to knock courses

before the class begins, but once the class is over, it is over. (It may be required to turn in a paper at a later date once the last session concludes.) Some students even take them purely because they think the course looks interesting and others take them to learn about something outside of their field of study.

## What has been offered...

From Italian cinema to the history of sports, from Hitler to web page design, Avila has offered an assortment of weekend classes. Next semester is no exception. These are only five on a lengthy list.

**"Hello. I am calling to remind you about your class that meets in two weeks."**



## Alternative Cinema 1 credit hour Feb. 14-15, 2003

With every new means of expression, there is someone that pushes it to the limit. This is especially true in the realm of cinema. Much in alternative cinema is considered bizarre, unnecessary or unruly. Since all criticism is based on opinion, one should have the opportunity to experience a film and make his or her own conclusions. Yet, it is hard to access much of the films considered alternative precisely due to their nature. This class offers students an inside look at many films that students may or may not have ever seen.

## Prayer 1 credit hour Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2003

From pagan rituals to solemn meditation, prayers take on many forms and have numerous meanings. Prayers can be handed down through tradition and used with religious practices or taught and used for guidance. This class will teach students different ways prayer is used and how they can use it for themselves.

## Historic Dracula 1 credit hour Jan. 24-25, 2003

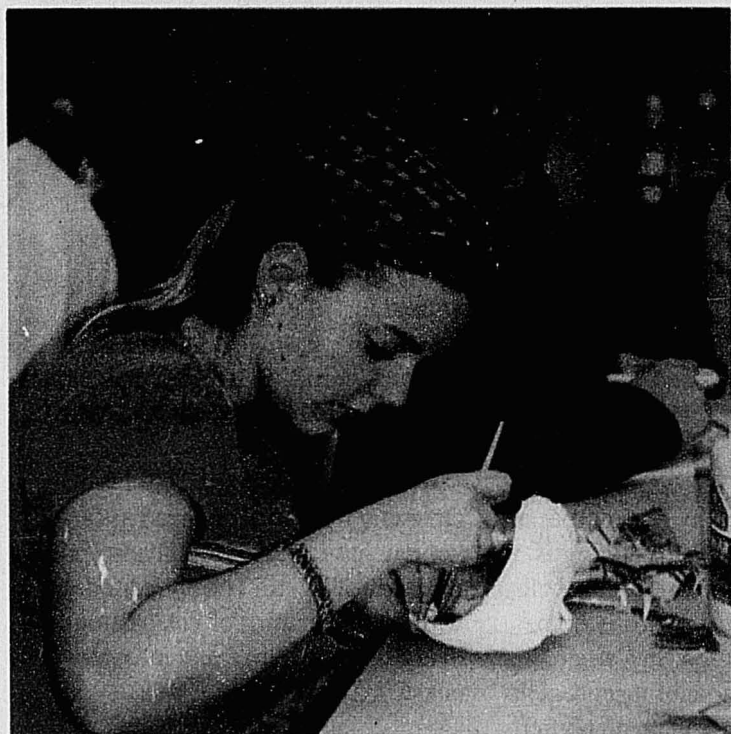
As infamous as he is, there are many shortcomings with the real Dracula. Dracula himself was a fictional character that Bram Stoker created. The real Dracula, from which Stoker's character is based, lived from 1431-1477 and was named Vlad the Impaler. He did not magically transform into a bat or have the ability to fly, but a stake in the heart would kill him. Students will learn the truth behind the curtain of what is Dracula.

## Dying Client/Family 1 credit hour Mar. 28-29, 2003

There are many things in life that are difficult to do. Facing death is at the top of many people's lists. So many are left with the question of how to tell someone the bad news or how to move past death. While there is no correct way to deliver the unwanted news, this course will help students learn different techniques and skills in helping those who are dying. From home to the work place, there are different ways to deal with the struggles involved.



# to making learning fun



Senior Melissa Legg glues strips of newspaper into a plaster cast to make an exact replica of her face in 'The Mask.'

## The truth behind 'The Mask'

Leah Foster  
Staff Writer

'Edutainment' is a term used in education to describe programs intended to entertain students, as well as teach the subject. One such class offered at Avila is the interdisciplinary course called 'The Mask.'

Squirrel bones, rusty nails and sticks were just a few of the items found walking around the lake, while other students chose to find tissue, leaves, flowers and newspaper to create their mask.

"I wanted to create something different so I chose to look for my supplies at the lake. The squirrel had been dead for a long time with the bones just sitting there, and the rusty nails I just melted to create a Hannibal look for my first mask," senior John Stoner said. "I enjoy being able to create whatever I want for the masks."

'The Mask,' one of many interdisciplinary classes provided to students, focuses on the creative process common to art and theater. Two instructors currently teach the class, one from the theater department, Masoud Delkhah, and the other from the art and design department, Nancy McReynolds.

"Students are required to create three masks and through learning and creative techniques be able to grow and become in touch with themselves by expressing their personalities in creating the masks," McReynolds said.

Students were given their first mask to create whatever look they wanted. The second mask was a plaster mold of each student's face on which to build his or her own artistic creation. For the final mask, students are to use their own cre-

ative technique. The students are also required to write in a journal reflecting daily on their creative process throughout the semester.

"Once the masks are made, the students then have the opportunity reveal their true personalities hiding behind their masks by using improvisation through sound and music," McReynolds said.

Senior Aaron Weaver said that he, along with other students, acted out rituals through dance and played out a non-traditional wedding by matching up masks.

"In the wedding act we had a sniper kill the groom to do something different," Weaver said. "In my last mask creation I am going to do a sports theme and act out a victory dance."

This is the first semester Delkhah and McReynolds have taught together. The creators and previous instructors of the class were Charlene Gould, director of the theater department, and Susan Lawlor, chair of the department of art and design. Gould and Lawlor were unable to teach the class this semester so they passed the opportunity to instructors from each of their departments.

Students feel the class has been a positive learning experience for both the students and the instructors by reflecting their inner personalities through the creation of masks.

Senior Lindsay Todd said she chose this class partly because of the requirement and also because she is partial to the theater aspect of acting with the masks.

"Paint, tissue, flowers, leaves, twigs, newspaper, clay and plaster are many of the items students used in creating their masks," Todd said.

'The Mask' is currently being offered this

semester, and future class offerings of 'The Mask' will be posted in the Avila course catalog.

### Old West: Violence, Wars, Life 1 credit hour each Feb. 14-15, Mar. 28-29, Apr. 11-12, 2003

The Old West is full of cold nights, coyotes and cacti... Well, so is the new west, but there are many other misconceptions of what really happened during this time period.

*Old West: Violence* will give students an insight on all the disgruntlement of the time. While some of what is seen in the movies, "take ten paces and draw," may be overexaggerated, there is a truth behind these ideas. Trains were robbed, outlaws ran rampant and the "law" was laid.

*Old West: Wars* brings the students face to face with the disputes of that time. The cowboys and Indians did clamor, but so did others. This portion of the class focuses on the numerous wars and conflicts during the Old West.

*Old West: Life* takes students on the journey of growing up in the west. Killing their own food, defending their fort and living with instability were attributes most families incorporated into daily life. Times may seem to have been tough in the Old West, but people survived and communities thrived. All three courses are corralled with extensive amounts of information on this fantastic piece of American history.

So with this next semester quickly approaching, take a moment to consider enrolling in a weekend intensive. Not only will you be knocking some credits out of the way, you'll also be gaining knowledge and having fun in the process.

Photos by E. Barnes.



## Turkey Day is an invented tradition

Alissa Nicole Solis

Staff Writer

**W**ild turkey, eagles, eel, seal, swan, lobster, plums, grapes and nuts all have one thing in common...they would have been found on a table for a special feast in 1621. Today, turkey, ham, corn on the cob, cranberry sauce and pumpkin pie are found at such a feast.

In 1621, some time between Sept. 21 and Nov. 11, an English harvest festival between the pilgrims and the Wampanoag Indians occurred and lasted for three days. The occasion is now known as Thanksgiving. The colonists, however, did not call the day Thanksgiving. To them, a thanksgiving was a religious holiday in which they would go to church to thank God for a specific event, such as the winning of a battle. This feast was a secular celebration; it would have never been considered a Thanksgiving to the pilgrims.

The event was based on English harvest festivals that traditionally occurred on Sept. 29. Abraham

Lincoln designated the holiday as the last Thursday in November, which may have correlated with the Nov. 21, 1621 anchoring of the Mayflower at Cape Cod. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt set the date for Thanksgiving for the fourth Thursday of November.

The pilgrims and Indians did not use forks. Instead, they ate with spoons, knives and their fingers. Salt was the only spice allowed on the table.

In the 17th century, a person's social standing determined what he or she ate, so the best food was placed next to the most important people. Pies and sweets were not included because sugar was scarce.

School, sports, stress and distance can keep a person from spending Thanksgiving at home. Junior Charles Whitfield has not celebrated Thanksgiving with his family for the past two years.

"My family lives in Virginia and I

have not gone home because my schedule is so hectic. I don't have time to jump on a plane for one day just to be back here the next. I say to myself every year I am going to go home and have some of my mama's collard greens, but every year it doesn't happen," Whitfield said.

Sophomore Michael Huntsucker likes to hunt alone in the morning of Thanksgiving in Colorado.

"I feel like I have the world to myself," Huntsucker said. "The funny thing about last Thanksgiving is that the stove broke. It took 18 hours to cook the turkey so I made steak and Texas fries and we had the turkey for breakfast."

Though traditionally regarded as an American holiday, Thanksgiving is celebrated in other countries as well.

Cameroon in West Africa is home to Edmund Ngafeeson. In Cameroon, Thanksgiving is more of a get together for the family. They attend church services in the morning and dinner at

night.

"I remember one time in the capital city my mom called me and was worried I wasn't going to be there, I told her, 'don't worry mom I'm coming,'" Ngafeeson said.

A typical meal in Cameroon for Thanksgiving consists of vegetables, huckleberry (a type of vegetable), chicken, beef, goat meat, corn fufu and everything is cooked and prepared in palm oil. Corn fufu is made with grains of corn and turned into a powder-like paste and is eaten with the huckleberry. Palm oil is reddish in color and produced by the palm nuts of a palm tree.

While cooking methods, food and table etiquette have changed as the holiday has evolved, the Thanksgiving meal is still consumed today with the same spirit of celebration, overindulgence, love and most importantly, thanks.

## Santa Claus is coming to town

Mikelle Fields

Features Editor

In upcoming weeks, Avila will be a brighter and more colorful place to learn. Known in previous years as Cocoa and Carols, Avila's Alumni Association will host this year's Avila University Holiday Celebration, featuring the Avila Singers.

The celebration will begin with the hanging of decorations, including wreaths and stringed lights. The wreaths will be decorated by all of the student organizations, and thousands of lights will be hung. Although the actual date is undecided, students can attend the lighting ceremony the week after Thanksgiving. Students can watch for flyers and postings around campus for the actual date.

On Sunday, Dec. 15, the holiday celebration will continue in Whitfield Center. Santa Claus will join the fun and will provide small gifts for children, although everyone is welcome.

"People are encouraged to bring kids. This is for alumni, students, faculty and staff," Director of Alumni Relations Morten Klinte said.

Food and drinks will be provided while the Avila Singers lead in caroling. Later, attendees can walk to Goppert Theatre where the Avila Singers will perform a concert.

Many invitations will be sent for the event, but attendance is expected to be less than 200 people.

"I encourage students to participate and I like to see them there. I would like to see the students participate in more events on campus," Klinte said.

## What Avila University Tutors Can Do For You

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Call 816-501-3666 or stop by the Student Resource Center in lower Blasco Hall to schedule an appointment. Evening tutoring is available in Ridgway Hall. You may also visit us at [www.avila.edu/info.src/collegeskills](http://www.avila.edu/info.src/collegeskills).



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

## Jamie Lecuru

Hilary Hetz  
Advertising Manager

Many nights throughout the week Jamie Lecuru sits in the registrar's office, eating her dinner before heading to her evening classes. This is the time she finishes her daily tasks of working in the registrar's office, and changes gears to prepare for class.

Lecuru is the Transcript Verification Coordinator. She previously worked in the Student Resource Center, but transferred to the registrar's office in March. Her job is to verify and mail transcripts, and carry out registration duties.

"I feel torn sometimes between being a student and working here. I remember the first time I had a faculty/staff meeting. I was in one of my professor's groups. What a conflict of interest," Lecuru said.

"I've had classes with her where she is quick to jump in and be a team player. She wants to quickly jump on board on group projects and be a participant. She definitely likes being a team player as far as pulling her weight and doing a fair amount of work," co-worker and classmate Anissa Johnson said.

At night, Lecuru goes home to her husband of two and a half years. They are expecting a child in April. She plans on working and finishing her degree after the baby is born.

Lecuru is a special education major who hopes to become an elementary



K. Baum

school teacher. Lecuru likes Avila

because of its size and feels that it is just right for her. She chose Avila because it was one of the only schools

**I probably would not have made it somewhere like the University of Missouri because it would have been too overwhelming for me.**

~ Jamie Lecuru

locally to offer a bachelor's degree in special education.

"I probably would not have made it somewhere like the University of Missouri because it would have been too overwhelming for me."

Avila is a comfortable and convenient place for Lecuru to work and go to school.

"I use my lunch hour to go to class. I go to class and come back so it is very convenient to do everything here," Lecuru said.

Juggling work and school for Lecuru takes a lot of prioritizing and time management.

"You always have to struggle to figure out what you need to do next," Lecuru said. "Use your time efficiently and plan appropriately. I do not always, but that is my goal."

## TNN offers help to pregnant students

Jake Sanders  
Staff Writer

Making mistakes is a normal part of life and for some students it is a major part of college life. Students get speeding tickets, alcohol poisoning and hangovers, yet students can rectify their mistakes through lawyers, court systems and hospitals. But where can a student turn when the answers are not easy to find, as in the instance of an unplanned pregnancy? The Nurturing Network (TNN) is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping women experiencing unplanned, and possibly unwanted, pregnancies.

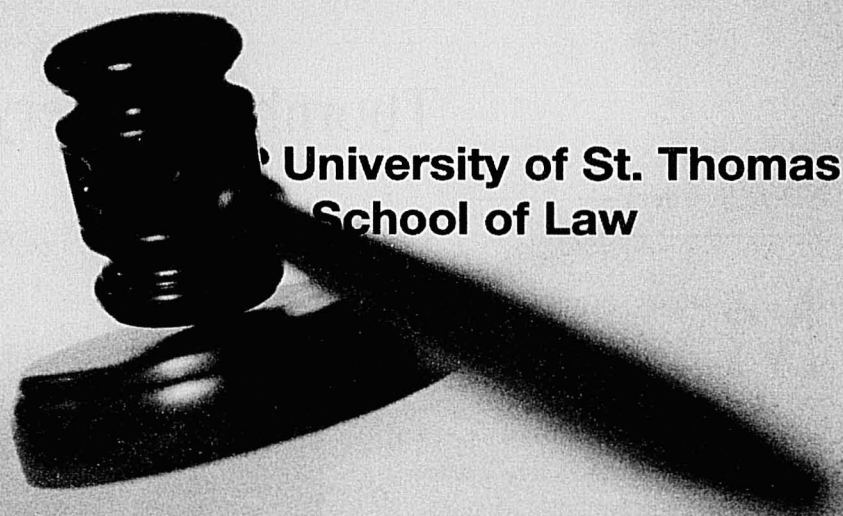
TNN believes that unplanned pregnancies do not have to mean unwanted babies. The organization challenges the abortion option by offering assistance to women who are expecting and do not know where to turn.

TNN focuses its program on young, unmarried women of college age who might believe that they have too much to lose from carrying a child to full term or that the strain of raising a child is too difficult to handle.

TNN works to assist women from initial pregnancy testing to delivery, and provides information on parenting and adoption. The organization offers guidance and counseling from licensed counselors, nurses and social workers. It also has a program that allows a woman whose family does not offer the support she needs the opportunity to live with a family sensitive to her feelings.

TNN also provides medical assistance and advice through their client services staff because of their belief in the importance of having continual care from knowledgeable medical personnel. Women in need of temporary or permanent employment are offered job opportunities through member employers to help ease their financial needs.

The Nurturing Network offers choices to women who wish to carry their baby to full term. For more information call 1-800-TNN-4MOM or visit their website at [www.nurturingnetwork.org](http://www.nurturingnetwork.org).



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## Film Review

## Punch-Drunk Love

He Said ★★★★★

Jeremy Cox  
Staff Writer

Emotionally damaged, constantly confused, closed off from the world and crazy enough to buy thousands of packages of pudding sums up Adam Sandler's character in *Punch-Drunk Love*.

Barry Egan's life is run by his seven sisters. Each makes it a daily routine to call him and pick him apart piece by piece. This causes Barry to be very sensitive to criticism, which in turn displays itself through immature, child-like anger. He is constantly on edge and skittish, even paranoid.

He looks to a phone sex operator to fill the void of emotions inside of him. It is a phone service in which every day, one of the ladies calls to talk. It is a weird and twisted companionship that fills the emptiness

where true love does not exist.

Paul Thomas Anderson, who created films such as *Magnolia* and *Boogie Nights*, directed *Punch-Drunk Love*. The film is shot beautifully. There is a soft glow to the screen throughout the film, which gives it a dreamlike quality. That aspect, mixed with intriguing and thought-provoking dialogue, made this film amazing.

*Punch-Drunk Love* is quality in every sense of the word. Sandler, when combined with the performances of Emily Watson and Philip Seymour Hoffman, truly shines on the screen. His acting ability is evident in this film, which rarely appears in his comedies. This film is definitely a must-see.

Punch-Drunk Love  
Starring Adam Sandler, Emily Watson and  
Philip Seymour Hoffman  
Directed by P.T. Anderson

★★★★ She Said

Rachel Murphy  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Newsflash! Adam Sandler can act! There were always hints that greatness may lie beneath the Opera Man's shallow exterior, but *Punch-Drunk Love* is proof. In P.T. Anderson's tightly woven tale of love and extortion, Sandler shines, partly because he does not have to play stupid, and partly because of the stellar script.

Barry Egan (Sandler) is best described as hen-pecked. He has seven sisters that love to torment him. He clips coupons, sells novelty toilet plungers and quietly tries to restrain his rage and loneliness. When one of his sisters wants to introduce him to a female co-worker, Lena (Watson), shies away from saying that he does not do things like that. His sister tells him, "What do you mean? You don't do anything."

In the meantime, Barry decides to call a phone sex line, not for sexual gratification, but merely for someone to talk to. When this ends up being an extortion scam, his misery is complete. When Barry and Lena finally do meet, their relationship sputters and then blooms into one of the most

poignant love stories seen in recent film history.

This is easily one the best films to come out this year. Paul Thomas Anderson, known for his sprawling, convoluted films such as *Boogie Nights* and *Magnolia*, has crafted a tight, quirky love story. Sandler is brilliant as Barry, resembling Chaplin in mannerisms and movements and never losing the spark of humanity and humor that makes him so vulnerable. Emily Watson is endearing as Lena Leonard. Her quiet persistence to accept Barry and all his quirks are exactly what he needs. Philip Seymour Hoffman does a great job as the extortion ringleader, reminding the viewer slightly of Jack Black.

The film's great script is augmented with a stellar score by Jon Brion, and transitions that look like they let Georgia O'Keeffe loose on celluloid, spinning vibrant colors to segue into the next scene. *Punch-Drunk Love* was a delightful surprise from beginning to end. This is definitely the perfect date movie.

Thornhill Gallery presents *Wrapped Time*Nicole Sowders  
Staff Writer

Mummies are hanging from the walls in Whitfield Center.

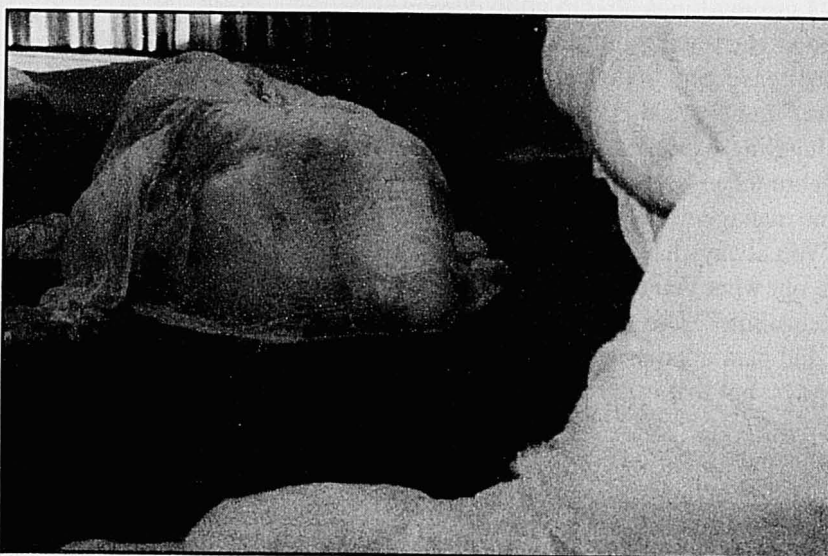
"Three years ago was the last time I went into the art gallery, but when I saw mummies in the gallery it was a big change from paintings to mummies, and I had to go in," senior John Stoner said.

The current exhibit in Thornhill Gallery is artwork by Amy F. Mendenhall Mansfield. Her piece is called *Wrapped Time*. These pieces are life size and were Mansfield's senior thesis from her last year at Kansas State University.

"I want to encompass all art forms and want to expose what's going on in Kansas City's art world," Thornhill Gallery's curator Marci Aylward said. "I would like to bring in different art pieces, not just apples and vases."

Aylward began as curator last spring. She works year round to get prominent artists to come into the gallery.

"There are lots of good artists in



Amy F. Mendenhall Mansfield's "mummies" lay around Thornhill Gallery.

Kansas City and I want to bring them into the gallery. More and more people have been stopping by, especially with our new diverse artists," Aylward said.

Many students, including senior Rebecca Reed, did not know much about the gallery. Reed stated that she has walked by the gallery but never really knew what it was all about.

"For the most part, I have never had a reason to go into the gallery. I do know that artists show their work there, and there is usually a work-study student there to show people the artwork, just like a real gallery. I have seen the signs and it sounds and looks really interesting, especially the recently colored signs. I am going to stop by eventually," Reed said.

Aylward hopes to keep art shows in the gallery continuously throughout the year. There are three shows per semester and a senior show the last week of the school year. She hopes to have a diverse gallery.

Aylward lights candles, burns incense and plays music to create the mood in the gallery. Poems and mathematical structure often accompany the art pieces in the gallery.

Junior art therapy major Laura Wilkerson thinks the gallery is a great thing to have on campus, and wishes it would expand.

"A lot of accomplished artists have shown there. It's also cool that there is a senior show where students get to show their work at the end of the year," Wilkerson said.

Tom Creamer, Lee Bowers, Leonard Koenig and the senior show artists will be on display throughout the year. Mansfield's artwork shows from Nov. 8 through Dec. 18. For more information, contact Marci Aylward at ext. 2443. Exhibit openings are free to the public and everyone is welcome to attend.



# God has blessed America

Justin Heany  
Staff Writer

In the past few months I have progressively become more curious as to why so many Americans feel that it is necessary to place "God Bless America" bumper stickers on their cars, trucks and SUVs. I realize that in the past two years we have encountered several devilish acts of horror, but does that require God to bless America?

God has blessed America! Why is it that Americans cannot see this? While other country's citizens are struggling

for enough food to live, we choose to gorge ourselves at all-you-can-eat buffets. Education, let alone higher education, is beyond belief in some countries, but here in America it is given to us without accountability. In America, we dress ourselves in diamonds, gold and the finest clothing, and do not consider for one second what it may be worth in another country. After all this we expect, God to bless us?

God has blessed us with plenty of food, money and power. Instead of

using these resources to share with the less fortunate, both domestic and foreign, we stockpile our goods and use them as a means of oppression and intimidation. Still, in light of all this, Americans continue to adorn their cars with bumper stickers asking God to bless them.

We need to abolish the God bless America propaganda. It makes us look like unappreciative, thoughtless people. If America needs a blessing from God, ask to make us more peaceful, more understanding and more gener-

ous. Perhaps if we share our blessings maybe we will receive more. But at this point we do not deserve additional blessings.

In the future, think twice before asking, in one way or another, for God to bless America. Consider what that really means. Maybe with this new enlightenment we will feel comfortable decorating our material possessions with stickers that read: God bless another country... we are doing just fine.



God Bless America bumper stickers grace many Avila cars.

E. Barnes

## Staff Editorial: As we see it

Avila University is a college that is looking to change its image. Over recent years Avila students have seen the addition of a new gym, called the wellness center, a new bookstore, the new Eagles Nest recreation center, a change in status from college to university and a new football team. Avila is a school looking to place its mark on the map of Kansas City, and place itself in an arena for competition with other area schools.

Avila is making these changes in order to become a stronger institution with much to offer its students. However, it seems that Avila University might be piling too much on its plate. Each new addition and modification to Avila's campus requires extensive planning, research and funding. Funding requires an extensive plan called a capital campaign, which outlines the benefits of new programs and additions to Avila faculty and its donors. Without this extensive campaign and the funds that

it is supposed to generate, Avila is unable to achieve the goals it has set for the school.

The football team, which is in its third year of competition, spent its first two years practicing on little more than a patch of dirt and grass that posed as a practice field. Although this year the field has undergone some construction and improvement, there is much to be desired.

Rumors have circled campus since the beginning of football as to whether or not our campus would get a football stadium. Students seem to be expecting that we will have one, but it seems that the only plan is to have a field, which the soccer and football teams will share. Avila's capital campaign does not include a plan to build a stadium, which usually consists of a field, bleachers, an announcer's box and concession stand. Avila's plan is to have a field. A field means one properly constructed patch of grass that will be suitable for both the

football and soccer teams to share.

Avila created an extensive financial and strategic plan for the addition of the wellness center and the football team and field. Some of the deadlines that the strategic plan was supposed to meet seem to have long since come and gone. Athletes and students seem to be under the impression that the football field was to include a stadium and to them that has not happened. It also seems that students were told by faculty or other students to expect a stadium. This may be due to a lack of communication or understanding about the difference between field and stadium, however there are still some very disappointed students.

All the while, a new strategic plan was created that consists of more improvements for Avila's campus. Because the first plan has not met its original dates and goals, it has been combined with a new strategic plan that includes the sizeable undertaking of building "apartment style" dorms.

In the meantime, as rumors spread

and information is leaked or improperly received, students speculate, criticize and blame Avila for not following through on its promises.

The real truth is that Avila has made specific plans, they do not include everything that students believe they have been promised, and like any other plan, sometimes meeting the due dates and goals becomes difficult. Finances, weather, zoning issues and politics all play a role that students may not consider and faculty and staff did not anticipate. Avila University is a school well on its way to becoming one of the premier colleges of this area. These improvements are a process that should be taken one step at a time, with meticulous forethought, exceptional planning and realistic goals. This would prevent the type of rumors and discord that students, faculty and staff feel when they feel they have been led to believe they would receive something that may never have been a promise to begin with.



## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am sending you this correspondence to share my disappointment in the article entitled "Avila Advantage is 'watered down', chair says" that appeared in Volume XI Issue 2 of *The Talon*.

I found the content of the "watered down" article to be very accurate. I found the headline to be inexcusable. Any student, any parent of a student, any competitor or any individual not familiar with the Avila Advantage Program who chose not to read the article could easily have an inaccurate perception related to the quality of the program.

The article in the same Oct. 24, 2002 edition of *The Talon* that discussed Avila Advantage student Jonathan Monk was excellent. I hope that in the future *The Talon* can look at the many positive aspects of [the] Avila Advantage program. In addition, if *The Talon* is ever interested in researching the quality of accelerated learning, I suggest that you look at the research done by Dr. Raymond J. Wlodkowski from the Center for the Study of Accelerated Learning. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Norman Dexter  
Assistant Vice President  
For Professional Education and Outreach

## Campus Talk

If we were to go to war with Iraq,  
what would you consider to be a victory?



"The least amount of human lives lost possible."

Aaron Jackson, Junior



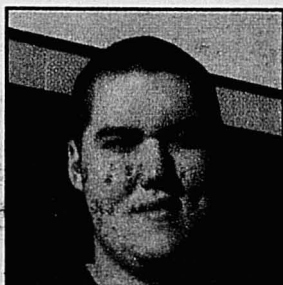
"Removing Saddam Hussein from office."

David Harris, Staff Computer Services



"To settle peace. I don't really consider war a real victory because people die, but if we could get peace between us and them I think that would be a real victory."

Kira Stockreef, Sophomore



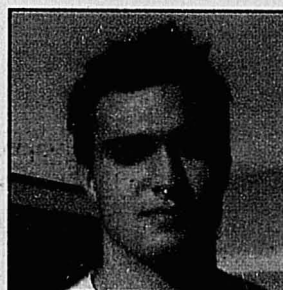
"An end to terrorism."

John Mulnix, Junior



"Resolution. Peace. Not going to war at all."

Michelle Brown, Junior



"Tearing down Saddam Hussein. If we took him down I think we would be all right."

Sean Supplee, Sophomore



"I really wouldn't consider it a victory that we were going to war. I think we should try to do something else besides go to war with Iraq first."

Johnny Turnage, Freshman



"I think we should seize all of his [Saddam Hussein] weapons first. If we kill Sadaam Hussein that would be a victory."

Steven Gearhart, Freshman

Is there a topic that matters to you? Do you have a question you want answered or a comment about something happening at Avila? We want to know! E-mail the Opinions Editor at beccas43@hotmail.com.

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